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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

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Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/53/609, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 26th and 41st meetings, on 28 October and 25 November 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.15 and A/C.2/53/L.46

2. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, *Australia*, *Canada* and *New Zealand*, subsequently joined by *Norway*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/53/L.15), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/53/609 and Add.1–6.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and 52/202 of 18 December 1997,

"*Reaffirming* the outcome of its nineteenth special session and the relevant decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development taken at its fifth and sixth sessions,

"*Noting* the importance of the decision taken at its nineteenth special session to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recognizing* that small island developing States are vulnerable and face constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

"*Noting* that implementation of the Programme of Action has taken place primarily at the national and regional levels, and commending efforts by small island developing States in this regard,

"*Noting further* that increased resources are instrumental for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented, under implementation or envisaged for the period 1999–2003 by bilateral donors, United Nations organizations and regional and non-United Nations international organizations, and welcomes the action taken by small island developing States and the international donor community in implementing plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

"2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States and urges that the progress made in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index be continued and encourages all the relevant organizations engaged in the process of refining the vulnerability index to work collaboratively;

"3. *Welcomes* the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, with respect to the donors' conference, to be held from 24 to 26 February 1999 between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and urges the parties concerned to facilitate project preparation and development;

"4. *Welcomes* the actions taken by Governments, regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"5. *Encourages* all small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors to participate in the donors' conference as a means of pursuing the development objectives of small island developing States;

"6. *Calls upon* small island developing States to continue preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly in September 1999 for the review and appraisal of

the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urges the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to continue to assist in this regard;

"7. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the special session of the General Assembly and in the preparatory meetings therefor;

"8. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

"9. *Also decides* to establish a voluntary fund to assist small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process and invites Governments to contribute to this fund;

"10. *Reiterates* the urgency for the international community to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threat of sea-level rise experienced as a consequence of climate change;

"11. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility and invites it, in accordance with the relevant decisions of its Council and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity to support further the objectives of the Programme of Action;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action a report on the donors' conference;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and recommendations emanating from the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States'."

3. At the 41st meeting, on 25 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/53/L.46), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.15.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.46 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.15 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and 52/202 of 18 December 1997,

Reaffirming the outcome of its nineteenth special session, held from 23 to 28 June 1997, specifically the adoption of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1] and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development taken at its fifth[2] and sixth[3] sessions, held from 7 to 25 April 1997, and on 22 December 1997 and from 20 April to 1 May 1998, respectively,

Noting the importance of the decision taken at its nineteenth special session[4] to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[5]

Reaffirming its decision to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the special session and in the preparatory meetings therefor, in the capacity of observers,

Recognizing that small island developing States are vulnerable and face constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Noting that implementation of the Programme of Action has been carried out primarily at the national and regional levels, and commending efforts by small island developing States in this regard,

Noting also that the considerable efforts being made at the national and regional levels need to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented, under implementation or envisaged for the period 1999–2003 by bilateral donors, United Nations organizations and regional and non-United Nations international organizations, and welcomes the action taken by small island developing States and the international donor community in implementing plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

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[1] Resolution S–19/2, annex.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9* (E/1997/29).

[3] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[4] Resolution S–19/2, annex, para. 71.

[5] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] A/53/358.

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, urges that the progress made in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States be continued and encourages all the relevant organizations engaged in the process of refining the vulnerability index to work collaboratively;

3. *Welcomes* the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, with respect to the donors' conference, a meeting to be held from 24 to 26 February 1999 between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and urges the parties concerned to facilitate project preparation and development;

4. *Encourages* all small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors to participate in the donors' conference as a means of pursuing the development objectives of small island developing States;

5. *Welcomes* the actions taken by Governments, regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

6. *Urges* small island developing States to continue preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly in September 1999 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urges the international community, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to assist in this regard;

7. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of regional economic commissions in the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference;

8. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Global Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings, and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the special session and in the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the preparatory body for the special session, and invites Governments to make timely and voluntary contributions for that purpose to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to assist small island developing States by applying the modalities for such assistance used for their participation in the Global Conference;

[7] A/53/65–E/1998/5.

10. *Reiterates* the urgency of the international community's support of adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threat of sea-level rise experienced as a consequence of climate change;

11. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, and invites it, in accordance with the relevant decisions of its Council and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[8] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[9] to support further the objectives of the Programme of Action;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the existing mechanism, and to the General Assembly at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a report on the donors' conference;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and the recommendations emanating from the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

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[8] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[9] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.